The Danger of Mercenary Parliaments.

SEveral Treatises have been formerly written, and more (I doubt not) will be in this juncture published, with Directions and Informations to the People of *England* for choosing fit and proper Representatives for the ensuing Parliament; wherein sufficient notice will be taken of the Failures and Defects of several who have already been employed in that Service, and the due Qualifications of such who are now to be elected. I shall therefore confine my present thoughts only to one particular Head, which yet, in my opinion, seems to involve in it the inevitable Fate of *England*, which wholly depends upon the choice of Members for the next Session of Parliament: I mean *the choosing or refusing of such Persons who are now possest of any Places and Preferments, depending upon the gift and pleasure of the Court.* If herein my Endeavours prove unsuccessful, I shall have nothing left but the satisfaction of my own Conscience to support me under the deplorable Consequents and Effects which must necessarily attend the choice of a House of Commons fill'd with Officers and Court-Pensioners. This is the last struggle and effort the People of *England* have left them for their Properties; and should we now miscarry in this, we may sit down and idly shew our Affections for our Country, and fruitlessly bewail the loss of our Liberties, but shall never meet with another opportunity of exerting ourselves in its Service. That I may therefore fix the Minds of People right in this Particular ere it be too late, I think it will be only necessary to shew the danger of choosing Members that are in Places from two Considerations: First, From the nature of such a Parliament considered in it self: And secondly, From what has already been done by Parliaments so qualified. In both which I shall be very brief, and content myself with much fewer Arguments than might be urged upon this Subject: For I should almost despair of being survived by the Liberties of *England*, if I could imagine there was a necessity of saying much in a case not only of such irresistible Evidence and Demonstration, but also of the utmost concern and importance to us.

2. First then, We shall best be able to understand the nature of such an ill-chosen Parliament, by comparing it with a true one, and with the original design of Parliaments in their Institution. I hope it need not be told that they were at first intended for a Support to the King's just Prerogative, and a Protection to the Subjects in their as just Rights and Privileges: For maintaining all due Honour to the Executive Power, and all suitable respect and encouragement to those who are intrusted with the Administration of the Laws: For a poise and balance between the two extreme contending Powers of absolute Monarchy and Anarchy: For a check and curb to insolent and licentious Ministers, and a terror to ambitious and over-grown Statesmen: For giving their Advice to his Majesty in all matters of Importance: For making necessary Laws to preserve or improve our Constitution, and abrogating such as were found burdensom and obsolete: For giving the King Mony for defraying the Charges and Expences of the Government, or maintaining a necessary War against Foreign and Domestick Enemies: For examining and inspecting the Public Accounts, to know if their Mony be applied to its true use and purpose: In short, For the best Security imaginable to his Majesty's Honour and Royal Dignities, and the Subjects Liberties, Estates, and Lives.

3. This being the nature and true design of a Parliament, let us now see whether a House of Commons, full of Officers and Court-Pensioners, will answer those noble and laudable Ends of their Constitution.

And here indeed I begin already to be asham'd of my undertaking; the proof of the Negative is so ridiculous, that it looks too much like a Jest to ask any one in his Wits, Whether a Parliament fill'd with Delinquents will ever call themselves to an account, or what account would be given if they should? Whether an Assembly of public Robbers will sentence one another to be punish'd, or to make Restitution? Whether it is possible our Grievances can be redrest, that are committed by Persons from whom there is no higher Power to appeal? Whether there is any hope of Justice where the Malefactors are the Judges? Whether his Majesty can be rightly inform'd in Affairs relating to Himself or the Public, when they are represented to him only by such Persons who design to abuse him? Whether the Public Accounts will be faithfully inspected by those who embezzle our Mony to their own use? Whether the King's Prerogative can be lawfully maintain'd by such who only pervert it to their own ministerial ends and purposes? Whether a Parliament can be a true balance, where all the weight lies only in one Scale? Or, lastly, Whether a House of Commons can vote freely, who are either prepossest with the hopes and promises of enjoying Places, or the slavish fears of losing them? Methinks it is offering too much Violence to Human Nature to ask such Questions as these; I shall therefore leave this invidious Point.

4. Yet lest still any should remain unsatisfied, or lull'd into a fond opinion, that these Mischiefs will not ensue upon the Elections they shall make, I shall further endeavour to convince those who are most mov'd by the force of Examples, by coming to my second Particular, and shewing how Parliaments so qualify'd have all along behav'd themselves. And here I must confess there are not many Instances to be given, the Project of corrupting Parliaments being but of a late date, a Practice first set on foot within the compass of our own Memories, as the last and most dangerous Stratagem that ever was invented by an encroaching Tyrant to possess himself of the Rights of a freeborn People; I mean K. *CHARLES* the 2d. who, well remembring with how little success both He and his Father had made use of open Arms and downright Violence to storm and batter down the Bulwarks of our excellent Constitution, had recourse at last to those mean Arts, and underhand Practices, of bribing and corrupting with Mony those who were intrusted with the Conservation of our Laws, and the Guardianship of our Liberties. And herein he so well succeeded, that the Mischiefs and Calamities, occasion'd by that mercenary Parliament, did not terminate with his Life and Reign; but the Effects of them are handed and continued down, and very sensibly felt by the Nation to this very hour. For it is to that House of Commons the formidable Greatness of *France* was owing, and to their account therefore ought we to set down the prodigious Expences of the late War: It was by those infamous Members that Mony was given to make a feign'd and collusive War with *France*, which at the same time was employ'd either in subduing the Subjects at home, or oppressing our Protestant Neighbours abroad: It was this Venal Parliament in effect that furnish'd the King of *France* with Timber and skilful Workmen for building Ships, as well as expert Mariners, and a prodigious quantity of Brass and Iron Canon, Morter-pieces, and Bullets from the Tower; by the help of which our own treacherous King was able to boast publickly, and thank God, that he had at last made his Brother of *France* a Seaman: By this means the Honour of *England* was prostituted, and our Natural and Naval Strength betray'd, with which, like *SAMPSON*, we should easily have broken all the Cords that *Europe*, or the whole World could have made to bind and enslave us, had not this Parliament made a Sacrifice of all to the Charms of a *French DALILAH*. To this profligate and villanous Reign we are to ascribe the loss of all the considerable Charters of *England*, the deaths of our best Patriots, the encouragement and almost establishment of *Popery*, the decay of Trade, the growth of Arbitrary Power, the ill effects of dishonourable Leagues, the shutting up of the Exchequer, the progress of all sorts of Debauchery, the

the ſervile compliances at Court of a prevailing *Hierarchy* in the Kingdom, the inſolent Deportments of the inferior *Clergy* both in the Univerſities and elſewhere, their ſlaviſh Doctrine of Paſſive Obedience and Nonreſiſtance; in ſhort, a general depravation of Manners, and almoſt utter extirpation of Virtue and moral Honeſty. Theſe and all the other Miſchiefs of that Reign are juſtly chargeable to the account of that penſion'd Parliament, who either were the immediate Authors, or the undoubted cauſers of them: who, tho they ſat long and often, and could not be ignorant of our deplorable Condition, yet having their Eyes blinded with the duſt of Gold, and their Tongues lock'd up with Silver Keys, they durſt not cry out for the reſcue of their Country, thus inhumanly raviſh'd in their very preſence. It will not conſiſt with my deſign'd Brevity, nor is it here neceſſary to give the Reaſons that induc'd the Court to diſſolve that Parliament; nor ſhall I take any further notice of their great and fortunat overſight in doing it, nor of their unfeign'd Repentance afterwards for it: I ſhall only obſerve, That if the Nation had been ſo ſenſleſly ſtupid to have choſen the ſame Members a ſecond time, who were Penſioners in the foregoing Parliament, we had long ago ſuffer'd the diſmal Conſequences of our folly and madneſs in ſuch a Choice; nor ſhould we now have had this liberty to warn one another againſt ſplitting upon the like Rocks, and falling into the ſame Precipices. But they were wiſer in thoſe times, and the conſideration of the dreadful Shipwrack they had ſo lately eſcapt, made them chooſe Pilots of a quite contrary diſpoſition, who, as far as in them lay, and as long as they were permitted to ſit at the Helm, repair'd the ſhatter'd Veſſel of the Commonwealth, reſtor'd its Honour, reviv'd its drooping Genius, gave force to its Laws, countenance to its Religion, and, in a great meaſure, reduc'd our baniſh'd Liberties, and expos'd the Perſons who ſold them to the univerſal hatred and reproach of their fellow Subjects; a Puniſhment indeed infinitely leſs than they deſerv'd for the higheſt Crime a Member of Parliament is capable of committing.

3. As for King *JAMES*'s Reign, he was notoriouſly guilty of the breach and violation of moſt of our fundamental Laws, which ſufficiently juſtifies our Carriage towards him, yet cannot we ſay that his Miſmanagement is to be aſcrib'd to the corruption of any Parliament ſitting in his time. 'Tis true indeed he reap'd too much advantage from the Conduct of the brib'd Parliament in his Brother's Reign, and us'd all poſſible endeavours to procure ſuch another for himſelf, well knowing it to be the moſt effectual means for carrying on his ruinous and deſtructive Projects; yet either from the unſhaken Conſtancy of the People, or want of dexterity in his Miniſters, he was altogether defeated in his Expectation.

6. This miſerable diſappointment of King *JAMES*'s hopes made way for our late glorious Revolution, which was brought about by the hearty endeavours, and accompanied with the moſt unfeigned vows and wiſhes of all true Lovers of their Country, who from hence expected a full deliverance from their preſent Miſeries, and a ſure remedy from their future Fears: For what Happineſs might not the People well hope for under the Government of the beſt of Kings, ſupported by the beſt of Titles, *viz.* The general Conſent and Election of his People? We were fill'd with golden dreams not only of a bare ſecurity for our Eſtates and Lives, but an inexhauſted affluence of all manner of Bleſſings a Nation is capable of enjoying. But tho we have dreamt the Dreams, yet have we not ſeen the Viſions. And tho the Nation is by this time ſadly ſenſible how wretchedly they have fallen ſhort of their expected Happineſs, yet are they not all acquainted with the true Spring and Fountain from whence all their Misfortunes flow, which is indeed no other than that bare-fac'd and openly avow'd Corruption, which, like a univerſal Leproſy, has ſo notoriouſly infected and overſpread both our Court and Parliament. 'Tis from hence are plainly deriv'd all the Calamities and Diſtractions under which the whole Nation at preſent groans: 'Tis this that has chang'd the very Natures of *Engliſhmen*, and

Villains, make them Cowards, of Eloquent Dunces, and of honest Men Villains: 'tis this can make a whole House of Commons eat their own words, and countervote what they had just before resolv'd on: 'tis this could summon the mercenary Members from all quarters of the Town in an instant to vote their fellow Criminals innocent: 'tis this that can make a Parliament throw away the Peoples Mony with the utmost profusion, without enquiring into the management of it: 'tis this that put a stop to the examination of that scandalous escape of the *Thoulon* Fleet into *Brest*: 'tis this that has encourag'd the mismanagements of the Admiralty in relation to the loss of so vast a number of Men of War and Merchant Ships, as well as other Miscarriages which were by all Men judg'd to proceed not from their want of understanding in Sea-Affairs: 'tis this that has hindred the passing a Bill so often brought into the House for incapacitating Members to bear Offices: 'tis this that could not only indemnify, but honour a leading Member for his audacious procuring and accepting a Grant of Lands, which by the Parliament had been set apart for the public Service; a Vote that shall stand recorded in their own Journals to the never-dying Infamy of that mercenary Assembly: 'tis this could make the same Person most confidently affirm, that he was sure the majority of the House would agree to what he was going to propose: 'tis this that could make Men of peaceable Dispositions and considerable Estates vote for a Standing Army: 'tis this that could bring Admirals to confess that our Fleet under their Command was no security to us: 'tis this could make wise Men act against their own apparent Interest: In short, 'tis this that has infatuated our Prudence, stagger'd our Constancy, sullied our Reputation, and introduc'd a total defection from all true *English* Principles. Bribery is indeed so sure and unavoidable a way to destroy any Nation, that we may all sit down and wonder that so much as the very name of a free Government is yet continued to us. And if by our wary choice of Members we should happen to recover our ancient Constitution, we shall with horror and astonishment look back, and reflect upon the dreadful Precipice we so narrowly escape.

7. Fatal Experience has now more than enough convinc'd us, that Courts have been the same in all Ages, and that few Persons have been found of such approv'd Constancy and Resolution as to withstand the powerful Allurements and Temptations which from thence have been continually dispens'd for the corrupting of Mens Minds, and debauching their honest Principles. Such Instances of the frailty of human Nature may be given within these few years past, as might make a Man even asham'd of his own Species, and which (were they not so open and notorious) ought out of pity to Mankind to be buried in perpetual silence. Who can enough lament the wretched Degeneracy of the Age we live in? To see Persons who were formerly noted for the most vigorous Asserters of their Country's Liberty, who from their Infancy had imbib'd no other Notions than what conduc'd to the public Safety, whose Principles were further improv'd and confirm'd by the advantages of a suitable Conversation, and who were so far possest with this spirit of Liberty, that it sometimes transported them beyond the bounds of Moderation, even to unwarrantable Excesses: to see these Men, I say, so infamously fall in with the arbitrary measures of the Court, and appear the most active Instruments for enslaving their Country, and that without any formal steps or degrees, but all in an instant, is so violent and surprizing a transition from one Extreme to another without passing the Mean, as would have confounded the Imaginations of *EUCLID* or *PYRRHO*. All the stated Maxims, in relation to the nature of Mankind, which have been long ago settled and establish'd by Philosophers and observing Men, are now baffled and exploded; and we have nothing left us to contemplate, but the wild extravagancies of Romantic Fables, the sudden conveyances of nimble finger'd Jugglers, the inimitable dispatches of transubstantiating Priests, or the now more credible Metamorphoses of Men into Beasts.

8. The necessity we have lain under of

of frequent meetings of Parliament during the War, has taught our Managers so much dexterity and address in their applications to the Members of that Assembly, that they are now become consummate Masters in that most detestable art of corrupting our Representatives, by hopes and fears of attaining or losing Offices and Preferments. And tho I here name Offices, yet those Offices are downright Bribes and Pensions, since they are held precariously from the Court, and constantly taken away upon non-compliance with the Court-measures; tho I am not ignorant that several considerable Pensions were also paid out of the Exchequer to Members of both Houses: For Places could not be had for all, tho they have tried all imaginable arts for dividing amongst themselves the considerable Posts in the Kingdom: For either by splitting of Offices amongst several Persons which were formerly executed by one, or by reviving such as were sunk, or by creating others which were altogether useless and unnecessary, or by promises of Preferment to those who could not presently be provided for, they had made above 200 Members absolutely dependent upon them. And what Points might not such a number carry in the House, who were always ready and constantly attending with more diligence to destroy our Constitution, than the rest were to preserve it? who represented not their Country but themselves, and always kept together in a close and undivided Phalanx, impenetrable either by shame or honour, voting always the same way, and saying always the same things, as if they were no longer voluntary Agents, but so many Engines merely turn'd about by a mechanic Motion, like an Organ where the great humming Bases as well as the little squeaking Trebles are fill'd but with one blast of Wind from the same sound-board? Yet a few of them may in some measure be distinguish'd from those *pointblank* Voters, whom neither their Country's Safety, nor their own more dear and valu'd Interest, nor the persuasion of their once intimate Friends, nor fear of Reproach, nor love of Reputation could ever prevail to join in an honest Point, or dissent from a Question that carried in it the Violation of the Rights and Properties of the Subject. These are the Men who have perswaded his Majesty, or rather assum'd to themselves not to fill up any vacant Offices whilst the Parliament is sitting; but to keep all Pretenders in a dependence till the end of the Session, and bind them up to their ill behaviour, which will then be their best pretence to demand their Wages of Unrighteousness: Witness the Commission of Excise the last Session, which was sued for by, and promis'd to above 30 Competitors, who all did their utmost to signalize their several Merits for an Office, which doubtless will be at last divided amongst those who have deserv'd worst of their Country. By these means they made their Numbers and Interest in the House so great, that no Miscarriage in the Government could ever be redress't, nor the meanest Tool belonging to them be punish'd: some of which they did indeed take into their own hands, which rais'd in the People a high expectation that some extraordinary Penalties would be inflicted upon them; when their design at the same time was nothing else but to protect and screen them from the ordinary course of Justice: such is now the difference in point of Corruption between a common Jury and the Grand Jury of the Nation! such a mutual assistance and support have they been to one another in the several mismanagements of their Trusts: so favourable have they been to their own Creatures, and so implacable to those who have any way oppos'd their unjust Proceedings, witness their scandalous Partiality in the case of *DUNCOMB*, which I hope to see printed at large for the satisfaction of the Public. If it were truly represented, I am sure there needs nothing more to excite in the People a universal detestation of their Arrogance and Injustice. And yet do these Apostates pretend to value themselves upon their Merit in contriving that most destructive Project of Exchequer Bills, by which all impartial men must either think they notoriously dissemble with us, or that they have indeed lost their Senses when they speak of publick Service; the word is so unbecoming in their mouths, and so awkerdly pronounc'd, that they seem not to

breath

their own element when they usurp the name. These are the men who have endeavoured to render our condition hopeless even beyond the power of the King himself to relieve us: For tho his Majesty be deservedly lov'd and honour'd by his People for his readiness to do them justice, and ease their oppressions, yet can we not expect it from him whilst he is thus beset and surrounded, and his Palaces invested by these Conspirators against his own honor and the welfare of his Kingdoms. The only remedy therefore that remains is, to chuse such a Parliament who lie under no temptations, and are acted by no other motives but the real and true Interest of his Majesty and his Dominions; a Parliament that will fall unanimously upon publick Business, and be free from those petty Factions and personal Piques which in the late Session so shamefully obstructed and delay'd the most important Service of the Commonwealth.

9. If it should be pretended, That the Nation is yet unsettled, and the fear of King *JAMES* has forc'd them upon these extraordinary Methods for their own preservation; I answer, That no cause whatsoever can be justly alledg'd in vindication of such vile arts and pernicious practices. But I would farther ask them, what necessity there is upon that account for their gaining such prodigious Estates to themselves in so short a time, and in so mercileſs a way, when the Nation was rack'd to the utmoſt by Taxes in a long and expensive War? Is it the fear of King *JAMES* that has brought such a reproach upon our Revolution, as if it needed to be supported by such mean and unjustifiable Practices? Is it the fear of King *JAMES* that makes us content he should live so near us, or that he should be maintain'd at our own charge of 50000 *l. per annum?* Or has not rather King *JAMES* been made the pretence for the unwarrantable Proceedings of our Conspirators during the War, and since the conclusion of the Peace? It is very strange that King *JAMES*, who is but their Jest in private, should be thus made their publick Bugbear to frighten us out of our senses like Children; so that King *JAMES* must be at last our ruin abroad, who could not compass it by all his power and interest at home. And in this sense I am of their opinion, That we are not yet quite delivered from the fear of King *JAMES*, who must be made the instrument of our Slavery by those very Persons who pretend their greatest merit to consist in delivering us from him. But what is this but making the old abdicated Tyrant a footstool to ascend the Throne of absolute Power, and a Scaffold for erecting that proud and stately Edifice from whence we have so justly tumbled him down headlong? But 'tis to be hop'd the Nation will be no longer impos'd on by such stale pretences as these, and that a well-chosen Parliament will not fail to pass their severest Censures upon those who would thus jest us out of all that is dear and valuable amongst us: That they will no longer resemble a flock of Sheep (as *CATO* said of the *Romans* in his time) that follow the Belweather, and are contented when all together to be led by the noses by such whose Counsels not a man of them would make use of in a private cause of his own: That they will at last vindicate the honor of *England*, and imitate their wise Ancestors in hunting down these Beasts of prey, these noxious Vermin to the Commonwealth, rather than suffer themselves to be led in collars and couples by one mighty *NIMROD*, who upon the turning up of his Nose shall expect a full cry of sequacious Animals, who must either join voices or be turn'd out of the pack.

10. Notwithstanding what I have said, I would not have any of them either really imagine themselves, or falsly suggest to others, that I envy them their Places and Preferments, which I am so far from doing, that I wish they rather had them for the term of their lives; I desire only they may be subject to the Laws, and to some Power on Earth that may call them to account for their Misbehaviours, that they may not be their own Judges, that our soveraign Remedy may not prove our chief Disease, and that the Kid may be seeth'd in something else than its Mother's milk. Nor would I by any means deny them their Seats in Parliament, provided

ed they are in a condition to ſpeak and act freely, and diſcharg'd from thoſe temptations which I find they have not conſtancy enough to withſtand; for after all, I ſtill believe many of them ſo honeſt that nothing but Mony or Preferments will corrupt them. But if nothing will ſatisfy them but the downright ſubverſion of our Conſtitution; if they will be content with nothing but the utter aboliſhing of all Laws, and the rooting up of thoſe fences and ſecurities provided by our Anceſtors for the preſervation of all things that are ſacred and eſteem'd amongſt mankind; it is high time for the Electors to look about them, and diſappoint their unreaſonable and exorbitant hopes, and to ſpew them out as deteſtable Members of the Commonwealth; not only as unfit to be truſted with their Liberties, but as unworthy to breath in the air of a Free Government.

II. If any ſhould ſay, That the alterations in Elections will ſtand us in no ſtead, ſince whoever are choſen will ſtill be bought off and brib'd by Court-preferments: I anſwer, it will require a conſiderable time to new-model and debauch a Houſe of Commons, nor can it be done but by diſplacing all thoſe who are already poſſeſs'd, to make room for theſe new comers, which will make the trade and myſtery of Bribery more plain, and conſequently more abhor'd. And ſince no Parliament can now ſit above three years, the Court will meet with freſh Difficulties to interrupt them, which may poſſibly at laſt make them weary of theſe Practices. 'Tis true indeed, this Conſideration ought to make us more circumſpect in our choice of Members, for tho we ſhould chooſe but an inconſiderable number of Penſioners, yet will they ſoon be able to work over a majority to their ſide: ſo true is the ſaying, *A little leaven leavens the whole Lump.* Whoever therefore out of any particular friendſhip, or other motives of fear or private Intereſt, ſhould vote for any one Perſon ſo qualify'd; let him conſider, that as much as in him lies, he makes a complement of all the Liberties of *England* to the inſatiable avarice and ambition of Statesmen and Court-Miniſters. Since therefore we have ſo narrowly eſcap'd our deſtruction, and one Seſſion more of the laſt Parliament would infallibly have ruin'd our Conſtitution, we cannot ſurely be ſo groſly overſeen as to neglect the opportunity now put into our hands for avoiding the like hazards in time to come; which may eaſily be done, if the Freeholders and Burghers in *England* will petition and engage their Repreſentatives to conſent to a Bill which ſhall be brought into the Houſe, to incapacitate all Members for holding Offices and Preferments: or if it ſhould be thought too much to debar them altogether from the enjoyments of Poſts of honor and advantage, let them keep them during good behaviour, and not otherwiſe; that ſuch Places may not be reſerv'd in ſtore for thoſe who ſhall be from time to time elected, and thereby a continued courſe of corruption be carry'd on ſucceſſively thro the whole Nation, who will in a few years inſenſibly find themſelves ſo univerſally infected with this inſinuating Vice, that we ſhall be throughly ripe for deſtruction, and readily expoſe to ſale the Liberties of *England* by Auction to the faireſt bidder. If it was deſervedly thought one of our moſt dangerous Grievances, that the Judges, who only declare the Law, ſhould hold their places *ad beneplacitum*; what condition muſt we be in when our Law-makers themſelves are ſubjected to the ſame temptations? Or what advantage have we got by having our Judges Commiſſions for life, when our very Legiſlature it ſelf is proſtituted to bribery and ſordid gain? The fortune of *England* is now brought to the niceſt point, and there are critical ſeaſons, which if neglected, will never again be offer'd; and ſhould we now fail in our duty to our Country, we ſhall aſſuredly fall unpitied by the reſt of the world. But if on the other hand we can by our foreſight and diligence prevent for the future the bribing and corruption of Parliaments, it is not to be imagin'd what ſecurity, what happineſs, and what immortal reputation will be the never-ceaſing concomitants of ſuch a Settlement. If the very Rump of a Parliament, even in the midſt of domeſtic Diſcontents, and beſet on all ſides with foreign Aſſaults and Invaſions

which he has already so firmly erected in the hearts and affections of his Subjects: And lastly, that he might wholly discharge himself of those wretched and perfidious Statesmen, who endeavour to fix the brand of their own acquir'd infamy upon their Master, that they may make him as hateful to one party for their Vices, as he is already to another for his own Virtues, and deprive him of the glorious Title of the World's greatest Benefactor, which he has so justly purchas'd to himself by his immortal Performances.

12. I shall conclude with one word, in answer to such who may possibly think I have reflected too much upon the supineness and base neglect of the People of *England*; as if it were possible they could be such monstrous and unnatural Self-murderers, as to give away with their own breath and free consent all their Rights to their Estates and Lives. I confess I should be glad to find my labour lost upon this account: But I desire such to consider, that there are many honest and well-meaning *Englishmen* who do not distinguish between our present Government, and our present way of governing; whose distance from the Parliament, multiplicity of Business, or other Circumstances in the world, render them less able to penetrate the designs that are now carrying on for the total subversion of our most excellent Constitution. And it is plain on the other hand, that the great and unwearied diligence of the present Conspirators against our Government, in order to support their future Elections, dos infer their thoughts that the majority of the Electors are capable of being impos'd upon in this gross and unexampled manner. Since therefore those who are making us Slaves, think it no great difficulty to effect their purposes, I see no reason why I ought to be so tender as to forbear expressing my fears and apprehensions of their success.

FINIS.